



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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## **NEW LAWS AFFECTING FIREWORKS DISPLAYS**

Nashville, TN.- The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office has developed a new certification program governing the display of fireworks, pyrotechnics, and flame effects as a result of new laws passed by the 2006 General Assembly.

At every professional display, a certified operator and a licensed exhibitor will be required. An operator is a person that assembles, discharges, and supervises displays. Exhibitors are companies that perform displays or supply materials for them. The new requirements do not affect the sale or use of consumer fireworks. The new laws take effect on May 1, 2007.

The purpose of the new laws is to promote the safety of the viewing public, as well as ensure a level of competence of the performers. Operators must be at least twenty one years of age, pass an exam to prove knowledge of the governing National Fire Protection Association codes, and submit proof of experience of having worked under competent supervision for at least three prior displays. Exhibitors will be required to provide proof of having at least \$1,000,000 of general liability insurance.

"The citizens of have a right to be confident that fireworks shows are performed competently and safely," said State Fire Marshal Leslie Newman. "The new laws are designed to ensure this."

The State Fire Marshal's Office is accepting applications for the new licenses. Information and updates will be available on the web at <http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/index.html>.

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